

# Public Health

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<i>House Bills</i>	
<b>HB 06S-1023</b> Restrictions on Defined Public Benefits	<b>HB 06S-1002</b> Services for Communicable Diseases

During the 2006 special session, the General Assembly adopted two bills concerning the access to public benefits by immigrants, including public health assistance.

On and after August 1, 2006, **HB 06S-1023** requires each agency or political subdivision of the state to verify the lawful presence of each person 18 years of age and older who applies for federal, state, or local public benefits. Verification of lawful presence is not required for:

- any purpose for which lawful presence in the United States is not required by law, ordinance, or rule;
- emergency medical care not related to an organ transplant;
- short-term, non-cash, in-kind emergency disaster relief;
- public health assistance for immunizations and for testing and treatment of symptoms of communicable diseases;
- programs, services, or assistance such as soup kitchens, crisis counseling, and short-term shelter that are necessary for the protection of life or safety; and
- prenatal care.

Each applicant for public benefits who is 18 years of age and older is required to produce a valid Colorado driver's license or identification card, U.S. military card, Coast Guard merchant card, or Native American tribal document. In addition, an applicant must execute an affidavit stating that he or she is a U.S. citizen or legal resident, or is otherwise lawfully present in the country. Verification of

an applicant's legal status must be made through the federal "Systematic Alien Verification of Entitlement Program" (SAVE program) if the applicant executed an affidavit stating that he or she is an alien lawfully present in the United States.

A person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in an affidavit is guilty of perjury in the second degree, a class 1 misdemeanor. The person commits second degree perjury for each time that the person fraudulently receives a benefit. It is unlawful for a political subdivision or a state agency to provide benefits in violation of the bill.

**HB 06S-1002** requires that immunizations for children and programs and services for the investigation, identification, testing, preventative care, or treatment of venereal disease, tuberculosis, HIV, and AIDS be available without regard to a person's immigration status.